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DOCUMENT NO. 39
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. A
☐ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S S
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
AUTH: NR T9-2
DATE: 5 JUN 1980 REVIEWER:

16 December 1959

Copy No. C 65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



State Department review completed

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Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A004800390001-6

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

16 December 1959

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

NO
USSR - West Germany: Moscow's notes of 14 December to Bonn and other members of the Western European Union, protesting a number of recent decisions "to speed up" German rearmament, are further moves in the campaign to discredit Bonn as the major factor obstructing a "peaceful adjustment of postwar problems," which "could be achieved at the coming summit meeting." The timing of the notes, anticipating the NATO ministerial meeting in Paris on 15 December, follows the usual Soviet practice, on the eve of high-level Western meetings, of emphasizing the dangers of continued German rearmament. Foreign Minister Gromyko delivered mildly worded protests on 11 December against the establishment of NATO supply bases in Denmark and Norway for the possible use of the West German forces; the protest coincided with the Norwegian Parliament's consideration of legislation appropriating funds for the bases.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Afghanistan-USSR: A party of Soviet technicians will shortly begin a survey for improvement and surfacing of the 470-mile road from the Soviet border through Western Afghanistan to Kandahar under the Soviet-Afghan agreement announced in May 1959. This will bring substantial numbers of Soviet technicians

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into southern Afghanistan for the first time, and will probably cause concern to Pakistani President Ayub, who has already denounced the road as more strategic than economic. Negotiations are continuing on two large dam projects announced in early 1956, to be financed under the original \$100,000,000 Soviet loan. [redacted] (Map)

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NO
Morocco: King Mohamed V on 12 December asked the United States to supply Morocco with several Coast Guard craft to combat arms smuggling along Morocco's Mediterranean coast. Morocco would require at least two American officers per craft as instructors. Anti-smuggling operations probably would be aimed more against arms destined for possible Moroccan dissidents than against those consigned to the Algerian rebels. The King's request apparently is a follow-up to the Moroccan midsummer request for American military equipment, and probably is unrelated to the crown prince's recent desire for a secret consignment of small arms to be distributed to "pure and uncontaminated" Moroccan elements. [redacted]

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NO
Cyprus: Election of Archbishop Makarios as first president of Cyprus by a two-to-one margin indicates that his followers will probably win a decisive victory in the 10 January elections to the unicameral Cypriot legislature. The Cypriot Communists, who apparently supplied most of the votes for Makarios' opponent, are expected to become the major opposition party. The size of the opposition vote deprives Makarios of his former stature as unchallenged leader of all Greeks on the island. [redacted]

25X1

16 Dec 59

DAILY BRIEF

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25X1

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USSR to Survey Road in Southern Afghanistan

A party of Soviet technicians will shortly begin a survey for improvement and surfacing of the 470-mile road from Kushka, on the Soviet border, through western Afghanistan to Kandahar under the Soviet-Afghan agreement announced in May 1959, according to a TASS report. This will bring substantial numbers of Soviet technicians into southern Afghanistan for the first time. Heretofore the major foreign economic assistance activity in the area has been carried on by the United States, notably in the Helmand Valley irrigation project and on the Kandahar International Airport.

The presence of Soviet technicians so close to the Pakistani border will probably cause concern to Pakistani President Ayub, who has already denounced the road as more strategic than economic. [Additional Soviet technicians may be brought into southern Afghanistan close to the Iranian border if Afghan Prime Minister Daud decides to seek Soviet assistance to build a proposed dam near the Helmand delta area.]

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The USSR is apparently moving to implement the Kushka-Kandahar road agreement promptly. Some construction work has apparently been under way since last summer on the northern portion between the Soviet border and Herat. The USSR's rapid start on another road, which will eventually go through the Salang Pass north of Kabul, has added to its reputation for prompt implementation of agreed projects in Afghanistan. Some Soviet projects financed under the Soviet \$100,000,000 loan of 1956 have yet to get beyond the survey stage, however, usually because of Afghan reluctance to accept Soviet cost figures for the construction work. Negotiations apparently are continuing for a large irrigation dam project at Jalalabad and a hydroelectric project at Naghlu, both of which were originally established as agreed projects in early 1956.

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Approved For Release 2008/07/29 : CIA-RDP80-00975A004800390001-6

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